Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting target molecules of a liquid or gas, the method comprising:

providing a ~~capillary~~ fiber;

providing receptor molecules coupled to a surface of said ~~capillary~~ fiber;

absorbing target molecules of the liquid or gas to provide a target/receptor molecule combination; and

using a chemical or physical property of the target/receptor molecule combination to change a physical property of the ~~capillary~~ fiber, to detect presence of the target molecules.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting liquid, the method comprising:

providing a ~~capillary~~ material;

using the ~~capillary~~ material to absorb the liquid;

detecting a change in material characteristic while the liquid is absorbed by the ~~capillary~~ material; and

generating a signal in response to said change in characteristic.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the material characteristic is size.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the material characteristic is color.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the material characteristic is conductivity.

29. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the material characteristic is capacitance.

30. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the material characteristic is weight.

31-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting liquid, the method comprising:

providing a ~~capillary~~ fiber;

impregnating a ~~material~~ unto the surface of the ~~capillary~~ fiber; and

detecting a change in the material when the material is contacted by the liquid.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein the change is from solid to liquid.

35. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein the change is a color change.

36. (Original) A method of detecting liquid, the method comprising:

detecting a change in size when the liquid is absorbed by a capillary material; and

generating a signal responsive to said change in size of the capillary material.

37. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the fiber includes a capillary fiber.

38. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the material includes a capillary material.

39. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the fiber includes a capillary fiber.